

DETAILED ACTION

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment received on 1-4-08.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark Levy on 3-20-08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Replace claim 1 with the following:

-- A programming device for RFID transponders disposed on a web comprising:

a) a strip transmission line comprising:

i) a central conductor having a top and a bottom surface;

ii) a first dielectric layer having a top and a bottom surface substantially parallel to one another and having a predetermined first thickness, said bottom surface being disposed adjacent said top surface of said central conductor;

iii) a second dielectric layer having a top and a bottom surface substantially parallel to one another and having a predetermined second thickness and a second dielectric constant, said top surface being disposed adjacent said bottom surface of said central conductor;

iv) at least one ground plane disposed proximate said top surface of said first dielectric layers and said bottom surface of said second dielectric layer, said strip transmission line having a characteristic impedance defined by at least one of the factors: said first thickness, said second thickness, said first dielectric constant, and said second dielectric constant;

v) a terminating resistor external to the housing, connected between the conductor and the at least one ground plane, wherein the terminating resistor is formed as part of a removable end cap that secures the web within the housing and electrically couples a portion of the housing below the web with a portion of the housing above the web, operatively connected between said central conductor and at least one of said at least one ground plane; and

b) a housing substantially surrounding said strip transmission line having an opening disposed adjacent said central conductor adapted to receive an RFID transponder therein; whereby, upon application of an RF programming signal to said central conductor, an RF field is generated and a first RFID transponder inserted into said opening may be programmed thereby while said RF field is of insufficient intensity to program any other RFID transponders adjacent said first RFID transponder. - -

Cancel claims 4-6.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-3 and 7-15 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to teach the limitation of the independent claim, including the claimed structure of the external resistor and its connectivity/coupling to/with the programming device and the limitations regarding the two dielectric layers.
4. The Examiner notes that the art of Tsirlin et al. (US 2005/0045723) teaches a similar structure to that of the current application. Further, Tsirlin et al. teaches a terminating resistor, but is silent to the terminating resistor being formed as part of a removable end cap that secures the web within the housing, as claimed. Such a limitation is not seen as obvious in light of the prior art.
5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure (See PTO-892).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL I. WALSH whose telephone number is (571)272-2409. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Paik can be reached on (571) 272-2404. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Daniel I Walsh/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2887